

In stark contrast, H.R. 1563 would authorize the head of not only the I.R.S. but every federal agency to take so-called “adverse personnel actions” against one of its employees where the agency finds that an individual has wilfully fallen behind on his or her taxes or failed to file a return on time. In order to defend yourself against such an adverse personnel action under H.R. 1563, you must demonstrate that your failure to pay your taxes or file a return on time stemmed from a “reasonable cause.”

In other words, this bill deputizes agency administrators, managers, and foremen as bonafide tax investigators—authorizing them to examine and determine the tax compliance status of agency employees. In addition, H.R. 1563 essentially requires all federal workers to affirmatively defend their failure to pay taxes or file a return on time by requiring them to provide agency management with specific and satisfactory reasons for their non-compliance. If you're behind on your taxes because you went through a health care crisis and want to keep your federal job, you're going to have to share the details of your medical emergency with your employing agency under this bill. If you're behind on your taxes because you're going through a divorce but still want to keep working at your federal agency, you're going to have to disclose the facts surrounding your divorce to your federal manager.

Now, I understand that this bill may seek to address those rare instances where federal bad actors intentionally try to cheat on their taxes. In practice, however, H.R. 1563 will broadly diminish the tax privacy rights of all federal employees. That's in spite of the 97% tax compliance rate for federal workers reported to our committee by the I.R.S. for 2014. It's also in spite of the existing federal payment levy program that already allows the I.R.S. to levy federal salaries and wages in order to recover delinquent tax debts in a cost-effective manner.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that the solution to achieving 100% tax compliance across the federal workforce is to waive the individual privacy rights of dedicated federal workers across the board. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose this legislation.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Unfortunately, all that is in this bill is pure symbolism without any substance, and it is very, very sad. I am disappointed to say that the House majority seems more interested in ideology and political messaging rather than facts and evidence.

Here are the facts. There is no problem to solve. The IRS confirmed that they have no problem collecting delinquent taxes from Federal employees. Federal employees have a much higher tax compliance rate than the American public and even Members of Congress and their staffs.

CBO has estimated that implementation of this measure will actually increase the cost to American taxpayers.

I, again, ask the question: When somebody is fired and does not have a job, where does the money come from? The fact is that we already have mechanisms in place to get the money. I do believe with all my heart that this is

another effort to demonize our Federal employees, and it is very, very sad.

I urge all Members to vote against this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here are the facts. I just love it when Washington, D.C., says, Oh, there is no problem. We have got a hundred thousand-plus people—Federal employees—who don't pay about \$1.1 billion in taxes. That number is up from \$962 million in 2008.

The problem is getting worse, but there is one department, one agency, where it is getting better, where it did improve, and it was in the IRS. We should pat them on the back.

There is one fundamental thing that we changed. In a bill that was voted on and supported by Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. HOYER and the 400-plus Members of this body, the Congress gave the ability and the authority to the head of the IRS to terminate the employment of one of their workers if they are not paying Federal taxes.

Guess what. Now, they have the best tax compliance rate in the Federal Government. Let's give that same tool to the rest of the departments and agencies.

You know what is a slap in a face to the Federal worker? When you don't get rid of the bad apples. When you have got somebody who is thumbing their nose, not playing by the rules, not doing what they are supposed to be doing. Guess what. It goes into the morale of the institution.

I think, as a Federal employee being paid by the taxpayers, one of your fundamental responsibilities is to file and pay your Federal taxes.

A fact: last year, we had 24,833 people who, as Federal employees, didn't even file a return. Can we solve that? Absolutely, we can solve that. We should require it.

When somebody goes to fill out an application, they should certify that they are fully compliant with the taxes. If there is a hardship, if they are in dispute over taxes owed, if their spouse gets into problems, if they are having their wages garnished, there are all of these outs.

Even at the finish line, based on an amendment offered by Mr. LYNCH, which we accepted, you get another 180 days to then go forward to your administrator or whoever is leading your department and agency and say: I am valuable; I am trying.

Still, the leader can say: Oh, you know what? I am going to give you a waiver or allow you to continue.

If we don't give them the authority—which they have at the IRS—then you limit the tools, and you are not getting rid of the people who are the bad apples.

We can make sure we get the best Federal employees but weed out the bad apples. I want to see people on both sides of the aisle say: let's pat the back

of the overwhelming majority who are patriotic, hard-working, dedicated employees, but we are going to get rid of the bad apples.

That is what this bill does. I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1563, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

—

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1629

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) at 4 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on the questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on H. Res. 200; adopting H. Res. 200, if ordered; and suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1562 and H.R. 1563.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 622, STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAX DEDUCTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1105, DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1195, BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION ADVISORY BOARDS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 200) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 622) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1105) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 183, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 154]

YEAS—240

Abraham	Denham	Huelskamp
Aderholt	Dent	Huizenga (MI)
Allen	DeSantis	Hultgren
Amash	DesJarlais	Hunter
Amodei	Diaz-Balart	Hurd (TX)
Babin	Dold	Hurt (VA)
Barletta	Duffy	Issa
Barr	Duncan (TN)	Jenkins (KS)
Barton	Ellmers (NC)	Jenkins (WV)
Benishke	Emmer (MN)	Johnson (OH)
Bilirakis	Farenthold	Johnson, Sam
Bishop (MI)	Fincher	Jolly
Bishop (UT)	Fitzpatrick	Jones
Black	Fleischmann	Jordan
Blackburn	Fleming	Joyce
Blum	Flores	Katko
Bost	Forbes	Kelly (PA)
Boustany	Fortenberry	King (IA)
Brady (TX)	Foxx	King (NY)
Brat	Franks (AZ)	Kinzing (IL)
Bridenstine	Frelinghuysen	Kline
Brooks (AL)	Garrett	Knight
Brooks (IN)	Gibbs	Labrador
Buchanan	Gibson	LaMalfa
Buck	Gohmert	Lamborn
Bucshon	Goodlatte	Lance
Burgess	Gosar	Latta
Byrne	Gowdy	LoBiondo
Calvert	Granger	Long
Carter (GA)	Graves (GA)	Loudermillk
Carter (TX)	Graves (LA)	Love
Chabot	Graves (MO)	Lucas
Chaffetz	Griffith	Luetkemeyer
Clawson (FL)	Grothman	Lummis
Coffman	Guinta	MacArthur
Cole	Guthrie	Marchant
Collins (GA)	Hanna	Marino
Collins (NY)	Hardy	Massie
Comstock	Harper	McCarthy
Conaway	Harris	McCaul
Cook	Hartzler	McClintock
Costello (PA)	Heck (NV)	McHenry
Cramer	Hensarling	McKinley
Crawford	Herrera Beutler	McMorris
Crenshaw	Hice, Jody B.	Rodgers
Culberson	Hill	McSally
Curbelo (FL)	Holding	Meadows
Davis, Rodney	Hudson	Meehan

Messer	Roby
Mica	Roe (TN)
Miller (FL)	Rogers (AL)
Miller (MI)	Rogers (KY)
Moolenaar	Rohrabacher
Mooney (WV)	Rokita
Mullin	Rooney (FL)
Mulvaney	Ros-Lehtinen
Murphy (PA)	Roskam
Neugebauer	Ross
Newhouse	Rothfus
Noem	Rouzer
Nugent	Royce
Nunes	Russell
Olson	Ryan (WI)
Palazzo	Salmon
Palmer	Sanford
Paulsen	Scalise
Pearce	Schweikert
Perry	Scott, Austin
Pittenger	Sensenbrenner
Pitts	Sessions
Poe (TX)	Shimkus
Pompeo	Shuster
Posey	Simpson
Price, Tom	Smith (MO)
Ratcliffe	Smith (NE)
Reed	Smith (NJ)
Reichert	Smith (TX)
Renacci	Stefanik
Ribble	Stewart
Rice (SC)	Stivers
Rigell	Stutzman

NAYS—183

Aguilar	Fudge
Ashford	Gabbard
Bass	Gallego
Beatty	Garamendi
Becerra	Graham
Bera	Grayson
Beyer	Green, Al
Bishop (GA)	Green, Gene
Blumenauer	Grijalva
Bonamici	Gutiérrez
Boyle, Brendan F.	Hahn
Brady (PA)	Hastings
Brown (FL)	Heck (WA)
Brownley (CA)	Higgins
Bustos	Himes
Butterfield	Hinojosa
Capps	Honda
Capuano	Hoyer
Cárdenas	Huffman
Carney	Israel
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee
Cartwright	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)
Castro (TX)	Johnson, E. B.
Chu, Judy	Kaptur
Cicilline	Keating
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy
Clay	Kildee
Cleaver	Kilmer
Clyburn	Kind
Cohen	Kirkpatrick
Connolly	Kuster
Conyers	Langevin
Cooper	Larsen (WA)
Costa	Larson (CT)
Courtney	Lawrence
Crowley	Lee
Cuellar	Levin
Cummings	Lewis
Davis (CA)	Lieu, Ted
Davis, Danny	Lipinski
DeFazio	Loeb sack
DeGette	Lofgren
Delaney	Lowenthal
DeLauro	Lowe
DelBene	Lujan Grisham
DeSaulnier	(NM)
Deutsch	Lujan, Ben Ray
Dingell	(NM)
Doggett	Lynch
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney
Duckworth	Carolyn
Edwards	Maloney, Sean
Ellison	Matsui
Engel	McCollum
Eshoo	McDermott
Esty	McGovern
Farr	McNerney
Fattah	Meeks
Foster	Meng
Frankel (FL)	Moore
	Moulton
	Murphy (FL)

Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—8

Adams	Price (NC)	Smith (WA)
Duncan (SC)	Richmond	Young (AK)
Poliquin	Ruiz	

□ 1700

Mrs. CAPPS, Messrs. AGUILAR and DOGGETT changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. DENT, McCLINTOCK, AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and SESSIONS changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 242, noes 182, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 155]

AYES—242

Abraham	Farenthold	Kline
Aderholt	Fincher	Knight
Allen	Fitzpatrick	Labrador
Amash	Fleischmann	LaMalfa
Amodei	Fleming	Lamborn
Babin	Flores	Lance
Barletta	Forbes	Latta
Barr	Fortenberry	LoBiondo
Barton	Foxx	Long
Benishke	Franks (AZ)	Loudermillk
Bilirakis	Frelinghuysen	Love
Bishop (UT)	Garrett	Lucas
Black	Gibbs	Luetkemeyer
Blackburn	Gibson	Lummis
Blum	Gohmert	MacArthur
Bost	Goodlatte	Marchant
Boustany	Gosar	Marino
Brady (TX)	Gowdy	Massie
Brat	Granger	McCarthy
Bridenstine	Graves (GA)	McCaul
Brooks (AL)	Graves (LA)	McClintock
Brooks (IN)	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Buchanan	Griffith	McKinley
Buck	Grothman	McMorris
Bucshon	Guinta	Rodgers
Burgess	Guthrie	McSally
Byrne	Hanna	Meadows
Calvert	Hardy	Meehan
Carter (GA)	Harper	Messer
Carter (TX)	Harris	Mica
Chabot	Hartzler	Miller (FL)
Chaffetz	Heck (NV)	Miller (MI)
Clawson (FL)	Hensarling	Moolenaar
Coffman	Herrera Beutler	Mooney (WV)
Cole	Hice, Jody B.	Mullin
Collins (GA)	Hill	Mulvaney
Collins (NY)	Holding	Murphy (PA)
Comstock	Hudson	Neugebauer
Conaway	Huelskamp	Newhouse
Cook	Huizenga (MI)	Noem
Costello (PA)	Hultgren	Nugent
Cramer	Hunter	Nunes
Crawford	Hurd (TX)	Olson
Crenshaw	Hurt (VA)	Palazzo
Culberson	Issa	Palmer
Curbelo (FL)	Jenkins (KS)	Paulsen
Davis, Rodney	Jenkins (WV)	Pearce
Denham	Johnson (OH)	Perry
Dent	Johnson, Sam	Pittenger
DeSantis	Jones	Pitts
DesJarlais	Jordan	Poe (TX)
Diaz-Balart	Joyce	Poliquin
Dold	Katko	Pompeo
Duffy	Kelly (PA)	Posey
Duncan (TN)	King (IA)	Price, Tom
Ellmers (NC)	King (NY)	Ratcliffe
Emmer (MN)	Kinzing (IL)	Reichert